

Range extensions and other noteworthy and new bird records from mainland Ecuador

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Received 4 June 2003

Bird species distribution in the Neotropics is still incompletely understood, with new distributional records and range extensions being regularly found. In addition, several species show patterns of seasonal, altitudinal or erratic movements that are still very poorly documented (see Joseph 1997).

In this note I present new localities for little-known species in Ecuador, including some globally or locally threatened (BirdLife International 2000, Granizo *et al.* 2002), as well as range and altitudinal extensions obtained from field work carried out in most of Ecuador's zoogeographic regions on a regular basis between 1996 and 2002 (Table 1, Fig. 1). The distribution and taxonomy of the species treated herein follow Ridgely & Greenfield (2001).

Birds were recorded through observations, mist-netting and tape-recording. Information on each study site is mentioned in the species accounts and details of the study sites are given in Table 1. Where appropriate, brief comments on the species' distribution, identification, taxonomy, natural history and conservation status are included as well. Further details on the species recorded, site lists and methods used are available directly from the author (see also Freile 2000). All of the observations presented in this paper pertain to the author unless otherwise noted. Photographs and tape-recordings are deposited in the archives of Fundación Numashir of Ecuador, and will be deposited in due course in the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell University, and research permits for collecting at particular sites are held at Centro de Datos para la Conservación (see www.jatunsacha.org), at Fundación EcoCiencia (www.ecociencia.org), and at the Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

Species accounts

GREY TINAMOU *Tinamus tao*

At least four different individuals were heard (one of them tape-recorded) at Nueva Alianza, Morona-Santiago province, at 1,300–1,500 m elevation on 11–19 May 2002. Nueva Alianza lies adjacent to the extensively forested Sangay National Park. An additional record from Morona-Santiago is that of a female specimen collected by N. Krabbe at Unsuants; 1,000 m elevation (MECN 7634), on 25 January 2002. Known from very few localities in Ecuador, these are the first records from Morona-Santiago province (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001) and suggest that its range is continuous along the east slope of the Andes.



Figure 1. Map of Ecuador showing the study sites (circles and numbers). Numbers correspond to those mentioned in Table 1. Contour lines at 300 m (thin line) and 1,000 m elevation (broad line). Scale 1: 4,000,000.

GREY-HEADED KITE *Leptodon cayanensis*

An adult was observed flying over a forested area above Mindo, Pichincha province, at 1,500 m elevation on 28 March 1998. Previously known in Ecuador up to 900 m in El Oro province (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Kirwan & Marlow (1996) reported *L. cayanensis* in their review of Mindo bird records, but gave no further information. There is an additional unpublished sighting as high as 1,600 m, above Mindo (M. Tellkamp pers. comm.).

TABLE 1

Localities mentioned in the text, where bird species reported in this note were recorded (see Fig. 1).

	Localities, provinces	Co-ordinates	Altitude (m)
1	Atacames–Tonsupa area, Esmeraldas	00°52'N, 79°51'W	10
2	Cerro Golondrinas Reserve, Carchi	00°49'N, 78°07'W	1,900
3	Guandera Biological Station, Carchi	00°36'N, 77°41'W	3,600
4	Alto Chocó Reserve, Imbabura	00°22'N, 78°27'W	2,100
5	Finca Paraíso de Papagayos, Esmeraldas	00°18'N, 79°27'W	100
6	Los Cedros Reserve, Imbabura	00°18'N, 78°46'W	1,450
7	Laguna Grande, Cuyabeno Reserve, Sucumbíos	00°02'N, 76°12'W	220
8	Palmitopamba, Pichincha	00°10'N, 78°40'W	1,400
9	Mindo, Pichincha	00°02'S, 78°48'W	1,500
10	Tandayapa Valley, Pichincha	00°01'S, 78°46'W	1,800
11	Oyacachi, Napo	00°05'S, 78°34'W	3,000
12	Oyacachi–El Chaco road, Napo	00°14'S, 77°55'W	2,550
13	Parque Metropolitano, Quito, Pichincha	00°13'S, 78°30'W	2,900
14	Papallacta, Napo	00°22'S, 78°13'W	3,600
15	Pañacocha, Sucumbíos	00°23'S, 76°07'W	220
16	Confluence of río Pañayacu with río Napo, Sucumbíos	00°26'S, 76°05'W	200
17	Otonga Reserve, Cotopaxi	00°25'S, 79°00'W	1,750
18	Micacocha, Antisana Ecological Reserve, Napo	00°30'S, 78°08'W	3,800
19	Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Orellana	00°38'S, 76°08'W	200
20	Yasuni Research Station, Orellana	00°40'S, 76°23'W	220
21	Machay, Tungurahua	01°23'S, 78°17'W	1,800
22	Parque Omaere, Pastaza	01°28'S, 77°59'W	950
23	Cashca Totoras, Bolívar	01°43'S, 78°58'W	3,000
24	Tiquibuzo, Bolívar	02°01'S, 79°05'W	2,200
25	La Libertad, Guayas	02°14'S, 80°57'W	0
26	Unnsuants, Morona-Santiago	02°33'S, 77°54'W	1,000
27	Guarumales, Azuay	02°34'S, 78°30'W	1,750
28	Míazal, Morona-Santiago	02°38'S, 77°47'W	300
29	Fasañán, Azuay	03°02'S, 78°42'W	3,100
30	Nueva Alianza, Morona-Santiago	02°05'S, 78°09'W	1,500

TINY HAWK *Accipiter superciliosus*

One was observed and tape-recorded atop a *Cecropia* tree at a forest border at Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Orellana province, on 15 January 2000. It was giving a fast and agitated series of *klee-e*, *klee-e* calls (it also gave the same call described by Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), and had an antbird-sized bird in its claws. Another bird was observed at close range for *c.*5 minutes in primary forest edge at Yasuni Research Station, on 27 September 2001. Both localities are within Yasuni National Park. On 4 September 2000, at Míazal, Morona-Santiago province (trans-Kutukú region), 300 m elevation, two birds were also seen at a forest border perching at

canopy level and giving a weak *cree-cree* call (see Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). There are few records of this species in Amazonian Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), where it appears to be a widespread, low-density resident (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.).

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

A single was observed at close range for up to 15 minutes above Papallacta, Napo province, at 3,600 m elevation on 28 January 2002, flying above páramo and actively chasing and attacking a flock of Brown-bellied Swallows *Notiochelidon murina*. At Guandera Biological Station, Carchi province, two individuals were observed on two separate occasions, on 1 and 3 February 2002, flying over páramo and adjacent elfin forest at 3,500–3,600 m elevation. This migrant raptor was previously reported up to 3,000 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001) and was not recorded at Guandera by Cresswell *et al.* (1999) (although their study was undertaken in July–September, when the species would not be present). D. Wolf (pers. comm. to R. S. Ridgely) also recorded this species above Papallacta on 16 January 2000, suggesting that it may be regular there.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

A single was observed at close range for several minutes at a swampy area in the páramo of Guandera Biological Station, Carchi province, at 3,600 m elevation. This species was previously recorded primarily from the coastal lowlands in Ecuador, with only a handful of records inland, including a single record from the highlands (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Confusion with other shorebird species is unlikely, as the long decurved bill and bold stripes in the crown are unique among other species occurring in Ecuador (Hayman *et al.* 1996, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis*

One was observed closely feeding at a sandy beach and in flight at the río Esmeraldas, below Finca Paraíso de Papagayos (3 km by road from Quinindé town), at c.100 m elevation, on 10 March 1998. It was identified in flight by its conspicuous white rump, a feature not present in any other sandpiper species that occurs regularly in Ecuador (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, an Old World species that has been recorded once in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), has a long and slightly down-curved bill and long legs (protruding in flight) (Hayman *et al.* 1986), two features not shown by the observed bird. There are very few records of this species in Ecuador and none from the western lowlands (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). As it does not winter in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001) this record probably involved a bird returning to its breeding grounds from southern South America (Hayman *et al.* 1986).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

A flock of 4–5 was observed at a muddy area next to Micacocha Lake, Antisana Ecological Reserve, Napo province, at 3,800 m elevation, on 24 September 1997.

Identification was based on throat and breast streaking abruptly ending on the lower breast. One of the observers (P. Catry) had extensive experience with shorebird identification and confirmed its identity. Previously recorded up to 3,500 m in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

STILT SANDPIPER *Micropalama himantopus*

Two were observed in a flock including Greater *Tringa melanoleuca* and Lesser Yellowlegs *T. flavipes*, and Spotted *Actitis macularius* and Baird's Sandpipers *Calidris bairdii*, at Micacocha Lake, Antisana Ecological Reserve, Napo province, at 3,800 m elevation, on 24 September 1997. All were feeding along a muddy beach and floating vegetation of this lake. The Stilt Sandpipers were identified by their long whitish supercilary stripes, long slightly curved bill and long greenish legs (Hayman *et al.* 1986, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Previously known from two other Andean localities in Ecuador up to 3,500 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor*

Three were observed feeding on floating vegetation at Micacocha Lake, Antisana Ecological Reserve, Napo province, at 3,800 m elevation, on 24 September 1997. This species was previously reported up to 3,500 m in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Subsequently, this area has been dammed, a change that will probably reduce the number of visiting migrant shorebird species, as well as of resident waterbirds in the near future (e.g. Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*, Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*) that were associated with this lake (however see Muñoz & Olmedo 2001).

RED-AND-GREEN MACAW *Ara chloropterus*

A flock of five was observed over primary forest and forest border above Tiputini River, at Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Yasuni National Park, at 250 m elevation, on 17 January 2000. Another flock of four was observed flying over Pañacocha Lake and adjacent primary forest, Sucumbios province, at a similar altitude, on 25–26 January 2000. *Ara chloropterus* is seemingly declining in Ecuador with only few recent records, and an apparent absence from seemingly adequate habitat (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Ribadeneira 2002).

GOLDEN-PLUMED PARAKEET *Leptosittaca branickii*

Two flocks of *c.*10 individuals in each were recorded daily (one of them was tape-recorded) at Fasañán (upper río Shiu), Azuay province, between 2,900 and 3,100 m elevation, on 16–21 December 1999. Forest at these altitudes is fairly continuous at Fasañán, and comprises at least 600 ha (Freile 2000). There is a good number of recent records of this threatened species in southern Ecuador, which apparently engages in seasonal migrations (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). These latter authors suggest that *L. branickii* is probably not so gravely at risk, but its geographic restriction, nomadic behaviour and the fact that during breeding the species becomes very

local and vulnerable to poaching should be taken into account to better assess its conservation status (Jácome 2002, N. Krabbe pers. comm.).

RED-FACED PARROT *Hapalopsittaca pyrrhops*

A pair was observed on two separate days flying above montane forest and adjacent clearings at Fasañán, Azuay province, at 3,000 m elevation, on 17 and 19 December 1999. The species is known from a handful of sites in southern Ecuador, and is threatened by intense deforestation throughout its small range (BirdLife International 2000, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). For natural history information see Toyne *et al.* (1995) and Toyne & Flanagan (1997).

RED-BILLED PARROT *Pionus sordidus*

A single bird was observed flying above forested and cleared areas at Cashca Totoras, Bolívar province, at 2,900–3,000 m elevation, on 7 September 1999. It was readily identified from White-capped Parrot, *Pionus seniloides*, the only other parrot species recorded at this site, by its uniformly green-coloured plumage, red vent and reddish bill (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It was not seen during the following days, suggesting that it was only passing through the area. However, three additional birds were observed by E. Bonaccorso in July 2003. It was previously reported up to 2,600 m in the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). There are some other records of local migrations in this species (Forshaw & Cooper 1977) but it has also been suggested that it is poorly adapted for long-distance daily movements (Collar 1997).

BAND-BELLIED OWL *Pulsatrix melanota*

Up to five individuals were heard, seen and tape-recorded at primary forest borders and adjacent clearings with tall standing trees in Nueva Alianza, Morona-Santiago province, at 1,300–1,500 m elevation, on 11–19 May 2002. This owl was previously unrecorded from the central portion of the eastern Andean slope, and this record helps partially to fill this discontinuity (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

One was observed during late afternoon perching on a fence post and flying over agricultural fields for *c.* 20 minutes in Tiquibuzo, Bolívar province, at 2,200 m altitude, on 31 October 1999. Previously recorded mostly between 3,000 and 4,000 m along the Andes of Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

COLLARED INCA *Coeligena torquata*

Four were observed feeding on an unidentified Rubiaceae sp. and chasing other hummingbirds inside secondary forest above Machay, Tungurahua province, at 1,800 m elevation, on 5–9 August 1999. Previously recorded mostly between 2,100 and 3,000 m (Krabbe *et al.* 1998, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), but now regularly found down to 1,750 m at Tandayapa, Pichincha province, mainly at bird feeders (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.). Furthermore, at least three individuals were observed in

secondary forest and at forest borders in Tiquibuzo, Bolívar province (2,200 m), on 30 October–3 November 1999. Recent records of this species in western Ecuador are restricted to the north (south to Cotopaxi province, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

EMERALD TOUCANET *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*

Heard and seen within secondary forest and forest borders above Machay, Tungurahua province, at 1,600–1,800 m elevation, on 5–9 August 1999. Birds showed a contrasting whitish throat and yellow central stripe on their bills, two features that distinguish the race *albivitta*, of northern Ecuador and eastern Colombia, from the southern race *cyanolaemus* (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). This record extends the currently known range of *albivitta* by c.60 km south to the northern side of the Pastaza River depression, and fills an apparent discontinuity in the distribution of *A. prasinus* (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The río Pastaza appears to constitute a distributional barrier for some Andean taxa (e.g. Moustached Antpitta *Grallaria alleni*, Handsome Flycatcher *Myiophobus pulcher*; see Krabbe *et al.* 1998), and it also separates the ranges of subspecies that may actually represent valid species (e.g. *Metallura williami*, see Krabbe *et al.* 1998, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It seems plausible that the río Pastaza also separates the races of *A. prasinus*, but confirmation of which race occurs in the intervening area between Tungurahua and Morona-Santiago provinces is needed. As suggested by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) and Navarro *et al.* (2001) this species with many allopatric taxa may prove to be separable into different valid species.

BLACK-BILLED MOUNTAIN-TOUCAN *Andigena nigrirostris*

A group of five was observed daily at a campsite in Oyacachi–El Chaco road, Napo province, at 2,550 m elevation on 17–22 February 1997. Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan *A. hypoglauca* was not recorded at the site. *A. nigrirostris* was previously known up to 2,300 m altitude, above which it is replaced by Grey-breasted Mountain-toucan (Krabbe *et al.* 1998, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

CHANNEL-BILLED TOUCAN *Ramphastos vitellinus*

Two were heard, seen and tape-recorded at a primary forest border in Nueva Alianza, Morona Santiago province, at 1,500 m elevation, on 18 May 2002. This Amazonian species has been found as high as 1,400 m in the Cordillera de Kutukú and locally up to 1,100 m along the Andean foothills (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

CHESTNUT-MANDIBLED TOUCAN *Ramphastos swainsonii*

Two were observed and heard daily at a campsite located in secondary forest at 1,400 m elevation in Palmitopamba, north-west of Nanegal, Pichincha province, on 22–26 July 1996. Additionally, several were observed in secondary forest, forest borders and adjacent clearings with tall standing trees in Los Cedros Reserve, Imbabura province, at 1,400–1,500 m elevation, on 17–23 May 1999. Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) reported old records at similar altitudes in the north-west, but gave recent records only as high as 1,000 m, in south-western Ecuador.

OLIVACEOUS PICULET *Picumnus olivaceus*

One was observed at close range feeding along vines and small trees in secondary forest at 1,400 m elevation in Palmitopamba, north-west of Nanegal, Pichincha province, on 24 July 1996. Previously recorded mainly below 900 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

LINED ANTSHRIKE *Thamnophilus tenuipunctatus*

Several were heard, seen and tape-recorded at secondary forest, forest borders, gardens and shrubs in adjacent clearings in Guarumales (Hidropaute Company Camp), Azuay province, at 1,750 m elevation, on 2–7 December 1999. Previously known to occur mostly below 1,400 m (Rassmusen & Rahbek 1994, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), with small numbers up to 1,650–1,700 m in Zamora-Chinchipec (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.). Ridgely & Greenfield (2001) suggested that this species may be spreading upslope following deforestation.

WHITE-BACKED FIRE-EYE *Pyriglena leuconota*

A male was mist-netted and collected in Palmitopamba, north-west of Nanegal, Pichincha province, on 25 July 1996, at 1,450 m elevation. The specimen was deposited at the Zoology Museum of the Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (QCAZ 1289). In the western Andes of Ecuador *P. leuconota* had not previously been recorded above 1,350 m, at nearby Maquipucuna Reserve (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

SPOTTED TODY-FLYCATCHER *Todirostrum maculatum*

One was observed closely for *c.*5 minutes in an *Inga* sp. planted tree in the gardens of Yasuni Research Station, Orellana province (250 m elevation), on 20 January 2000. Another was observed and tape-recorded in a garden bush in Pañacocha, Sucumbíos province (*c.*250 m), on 23 January 2000. It was readily identified by the spotted pattern on the white throat and yellow breast and sides, and by the contrasting grey head and conspicuous pale orange iris (Ridgely & Tudor 1994, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). These authors mentioned that in Ecuador *T. maculatum* has been recorded only on river islands and riparian woodland along the lower section of the Napo, Aguarico and Pastaza rivers. My records might represent dispersing or wandering individuals, which had followed the courses of small tributaries of the Napo River (Tiputini and Pañayacu), or that the species is beginning to spread into anthropogenic habitat (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.).

PIED WATER-TYRANT *Fluvicola pica*

One was observed on a sandy shore and adjacent vegetation at the confluence of the Pañayacu with the Napo, Sucumbíos province, on 30 January 2000. The black-and-white plumage pattern was conspicuous and distinctive. There is only one previous record in Ecuador, also from along the Napo but several km upstream, in the Jatun Sacha area (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Its status here remains uncertain.

YELLOW-BELLIED CHAT-TYRANT *Ochthoeca diadema*

A single was observed and tape-recorded in secondary forest undergrowth dominated by bamboo in Tiquibuzo, Bolívar province (2,200 m elevation), on 2 November 1999. On the western slope of the Andes the species has been recorded south to Cotopaxi province in the north, and locally in the south-west, in Azuay province (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Tiquibuzo is located *c.*120 km north of the Azuay site and *c.*140 km south of western Cotopaxi, but this record accords with the range estimation given by Krabbe *et al.* (1998), and helps to fill the apparent gap between the two areas (its distribution is probably continuous in appropriate habitat).

STRIPED MANAKIN *Machaeropterus regulus*

A female was mist-netted and photographed within secondary forest in Parque Omaere (near El Puyo), Pastaza province, at 950 m elevation, on 13 November 1999. This Amazonian manakin has been reported up to 1,000 m in the south-east (Cordillera de Kutukú), but in the north it is not usually found above 700 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). This is the highest record from north of the Pastaza River.

BEAUTIFUL JAY *Cyanolyca pulchra*

A group of six was observed and tape-recorded inside secondary forest along a creek in the Cerro Golondrinas Reserve, Carchi province, at 1,900 m altitude, on 2 June 1999. This restricted-range and Near-Threatened species is known from only a few localities in Ecuador, and is apparently declining (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001, Greenfield 2002).

RED-EYED VIREO *Vireo olivaceus*

Three different observers (J. A. Chaves, P. Castañeda and the author) observed a group of three birds during the morning of 22 March 2002 in Quebrada Ashintaco, Parque Metropolitano, Quito, Pichincha province, at 2,900 m elevation. They were feeding and moving conspicuously among shrubby vegetation. They were not observed subsequently, so they probably represented the boreal migrant *olivaceus* race, which is the only subspecies of *V. olivaceus* recorded in the highlands of Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). There is a single highland record from southern Ecuador, and it has not been previously found in the Quito area (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

BLACK-BILLED THRUSH *Turdus ignobilis*

Several were observed along forest borders and open areas around Machay town, Tungurahua province, at 1,600 m elevation, on 5 August 1999. On 2–7 December 1999, in Guarumales, Azuay province (1,750 m), several were also seen and heard in open areas, gardens and adjacent secondary forest. Previously recorded up to 1,200 m, but as this species is capable of quickly colonising recently cleared areas

it is not unexpected to find it at open areas above this elevation (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Singles, small groups and large flocks of this species have been recorded at altitudes above those reported by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001). Records come from Cerro Golondrinas Reserve (1,700–1,800 m), Bellavista Reserve (1,800 m), Tandayapa Bird Lodge (1,700 m), Mindo Biological Station (1,700 m) and Otonga Reserve (1,700–1,800 m). As this species is capable of long flights, and is also typical of cleared areas, it may be spreading upslope following deforestation.

GRASS WREN *Cistothorus platensis*

At least two were heard and seen in artificial pastures at 1,900 m elevation above Guarumales Camp, Azuay province, on 2 December 1999. The species is known to occur mostly above 2,800 m, with a few records down to 2,200 m (Loja–Zamora road) (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Considering the extent of pastureland along the road from Paute through Guarumales (pers. obs.), it seems plausible that this species is spreading downslope following deforestation.

TENNESSEE WARBLER *Vermivora peregrina*

One was mist-netted and released in a shrubby creek surrounded by planted Eucalyptus *Eucalyptus globulus* trees in Parque Metropolitano, outside Quito, Pichincha province, at 2,900 m elevation, on 6 March 2002. This migrant species has been previously reported from a single inter-Andean locality (San Pablo Lake) and at present is mostly known from the western slope of the Andes, in the Mindo area (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), with an additional recent record from Bombuscaro, Podocarpus National Park, Zamora-Chinchipec province (N. Athanas pers. comm. to R. S. Ridgely).

AMERICAN REDSTART *Setophaga ruticilla*

Several were observed and heard giving soft *scheet* calls in secondary forest and adjacent gardens in Parque Omaere (near El Puyo), Pastaza province, at 950 m elevation, on 11–14 November 1999. In eastern Ecuador *S. ruticilla* is known to occur along the entire base of the Andes (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), although the distribution map in this work does not include the area.

CANADA WARBLER *Wilsonia canadensis*

One was mist-netted and photographed in a regenerating scrubby area adjacent to secondary forest at a campsite on the Oyacachi–El Chaco road, Napo province, at 2,550 m elevation, on 19 February 1997. Previously recorded from both sides of the Andes up to 2,000 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

BUFF-RUMPED WARBLER *Basileuterus fulvicauda*

Three were observed in shrubby vegetation along a small stream in secondary forest at c.1,600 m elevation in the Cerro Golondrinas Reserve, Carchi province, on 1 June 1999. It had previously been recorded only below 1,000 m (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

CHESTNUT-VENTED CONEBILL *Conirostrum speciosum*

One male was observed for c.5 minutes in a primary forest border at Laguna Grande Lake, Cuyabeno Faunistic Reserve, Sucumbíos province, 220 m elevation, on 14 September 1996. It was identified by its bluish-grey plumage with a conspicuous chestnut vent and by the small whitish spot in the wing (which was fairly conspicuous in the individual observed) (Hilty & Brown 1986). Confusion with other passerines was unlikely (see Hilty & Brown 1986, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). There is only a handful of previous records in Ecuador, all of them above 400 m elevation, near the base of the Andes (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It is regular around and just above the town of Zamora, often feeding in *Inga* sp. trees (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.). This species was reported as a rare inhabitant at the margins of lakes in the Cuyabeno area by Paz y Miño (1989); however he did not provide any further details of his observations. This record is the first modern report away from the Andean foothills.

GOLDEN-RUMPED EUPHONIA *Euphonia cyanocephala*

A group of three was observed at close range accompanying a mixed-species flock, mainly of tanagers, in a shrubby area in Oyacachi town, Napo province 3,000 m elevation, on 15 February 1997. This report represents the highest elevation at which this species has been recorded in Ecuador (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.). This handsome euphonia occurs mostly along the west slope of the Andes and the inter-Andean valleys, with only scattered records from the eastern slope (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). Eastern records come from areas altitudinally below Oyacachi (San Isidro, Valladolid, Machay; Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

BLACK-CAPPED TANAGER *Tangara heinei*

A pair was observed feeding at an isolated Moraceae tree in a degraded area close to secondary forest, and attending a nest in the same tree, in Alto Chocó Reserve (on the road to Intag), Imbabura province, at 2,100 m elevation, on 16–20 June 1999. I was unable to see if the nest already contained eggs or nestlings, but nest material (small thin twigs) was frequently transported by both birds to the nest site. The species has been recorded from a few sites in western Ecuador, all of them recent, mostly between 1,100 and 1,900 m elevation (Ridgely 1980, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

SILVER-BEAKED TANAGER *Ramphocelus carbo*

Several were observed along forest borders, clearings and gardens at two sites in the eastern slope of the Andes: Machay town, Tungurahua province, at c.1,600 m

elevation, on 5 August 1999, and Guarumales Camp, Azuay province, at 1,700 m, on 2–7 December 1999. Previously recorded up to 1,300 m in western Napo (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It has also been recorded in recent years up to 1,600 m in Valladolid, Zamora-Chinchipec province (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.). This species is capable of rapidly colonising recently cleared areas, and its presence at both sites reported here is not surprising.

RED-HOODED TANAGER *Piranga rubriceps*

Two were observed at a secondary forest gap close to a forest border, at 1,700 m elevation, above Machay, Tungurahua province, on 7 August 1999. This striking tanager has been recorded mostly between 2,200 and 3,000 m altitude and seems to occur continuously along the eastern slope of the Andes in Ecuador (Krabbe *et al.* 1998, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

BLACK-EARED HEMISPINGUS *Hemispingus melanotis ochraceus*

One was mist-netted and photographed in secondary forest dominated by bamboo in the Cerro Golondrinas Reserve, Carchi province, at 2,000 m altitude, on 4 June 1999. The species is known from very few sites in north-west Ecuador, all of them from Pichincha south to Azuay province (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The present site is c.80 km north of previously known sites, but is in accordance with the estimated geographic range made by Krabbe *et al.* (1998). My record also partially fills the apparent discontinuity between Pichincha and south-west Colombia, where it has also been found (Hilty & Brown 1986). The race *ochraceus* was recently proposed to represent a separate species (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), but molecular data do not support this assumption (García-Moreno *et al.* 2001, 2003).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK *Pheucticus ludovicianus*

One was observed within a mixed-species flock in a shrubby area adjacent to secondary forest in Guarumales Camp, Azuay province, at 1,750 m altitude, on 5 December 1999. Records of this migrant species come mostly from western Ecuador, with only a few reports from the eastern slope of the Andes (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT *Tiaris olivacea*

A group of c.5 individuals was observed on 11–14 September 1999, in the Atacames-Tonsupa area, Esmeraldas province. This is the first record from coastal Ecuador (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The species, considered a recent arrival by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001), seems to be spreading in western Ecuador following deforestation and will probably be encountered in other areas further south, west and north.

LESSON'S SEEDEATER *Sporophila bouvronides*

Flocks of up to seven (males and female-plumaged birds) were observed in small pastures along the Maxus Road, Yasuni National Park, Orellana province, at the

following sites: Capirón, YPF Camp, Amo-C Camp and Yasuni Research Station, in June 1998 and 2000. The status of this intratropical migrant species in Ecuador is still poorly known, with only a few scattered records mostly from November to April (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). The records reported here are anomalous, as is the August record mentioned by Ridgely & Greenfield (2001). Although *S. bouvionides* can easily be confused with *S. lineola* (Lined Seedeater), none of the males observed had the white coronal stripe typical of the latter species (see Hilty & Brown 1986, Ridgely & Greenfield 2001).

YELLOW-BROWED SPARROW *Ammodramus aurifrons*

Several were seen and tape-recorded at clearings and gardens in Guarumales Camp, Azuay province, at 1,750 m altitude, on 2–7 December 1999. This species seems to be spreading to Andean slopes following deforestation, as it is able to colonise newly cleared areas quickly (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). It has previously been recorded up to 1,600 m, and even to 2,500 m as a wanderer (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001). At present it is also common around Valladolid, Zamora-Chinchipe province, at 1,600 m elevation (R. S. Ridgely pers. comm.).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Groups and singles were observed at La Libertad town, Guayas province, on the Santa Elena Peninsula, on 28–31 August 2001. Previous records in western Ecuador were restricted to areas where mangroves are still extensive (Ridgely & Greenfield 2001), and these authors mentioned that in the Santa Elena Peninsula it does not occur at all. The birds observed were probably dispersing from other areas further north or, even more likely, this species is beginning to colonise anthropogenic areas, as it does in other countries.

Acknowledgements

I thank Tom B. Smith, Borja Milá and Jordan Karubian, Center for Tropical Research, University of California at Los Angeles for letting me publish bird records gathered during their field research in Ecuador (Nueva Alianza, Tiputini, Yasuni, Miazal, Pañacocha, Parque Metropolitano), to Felipe Campos and Andrés Vallejo, Centro de Datos para la Conservación–Ecuador (CDC–Ecuador), for taking me on field trips to Palmitopamba and Oyacachi, to Tjitte de Vries (Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador) and Milton Ortega (Daimi Services) for the trips to Yasuni National Park, and to Isidro Gutiérrez at Ministerio del Ambiente for research permits for visiting other sites (see Freile 2000). Field research in other areas was financially supported by Programa de Becas de Investigación para la Conservación of Fundación EcoCiencia (funds from a grant of the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands), and the William Belton Donation Program of American Bird Conservancy. Several people and institutions gave logistic support and are fully acknowledged in Freile (2000). I also thank all the people who have accompanied me on field trips, particularly Melissa Moreano, Jaime A. Chaves, Nadia Vieira, Santiago Espinosa, David Lasso, Miguel Pinto, Gustavo Cañas and Paulo Catry. Mark B. Robbins, Robert S. Ridgely and Niels Krabbe are deeply thanked for their comments on this manuscript, and Kerem Ali Boyla for preparing the map. This paper is dedicated to the late Fernando Ortiz-Crespo for sharing his enthusiasm for and knowledge of birds.

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First Palearctic record of the endangered Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow*

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Received 15 July 2003

Many Procellariiformes make regular long-distance movements at sea (up to several thousands of km) during both breeding and non-breeding periods (González-Solís *et al.* 2000, Weimerskirch *et al.* 1999, Weimerskirch & Wilson 2000). The Bermuda Petrel *Pterodroma cahow*, endemic to Bermuda (in the subtropical north-western Atlantic), is classified as Endangered according to IUCN Red List criteria (BirdLife International 2000), with a few tens of breeding pairs (BirdLife International 2000, Madeiros 2002). Its movements during the non-breeding period are poorly known, dispersal being supposed to occur towards the north or the north-west in the subtropical western Atlantic (del Hoyo *et al.* 1992), as far as off North Carolina (Wingate *et al.* 1998). Here, we report the first record of a Bermuda Petrel in the Palearctic.

On 17 November 2002, during the daytime, MCM incidentally captured a gadfly petrel (genus *Pterodroma*) in a burrow on an offshore islet free of introduced predators, in the Azores archipelago. The bird was ringed using an individually numbered metal ring, measured and photographed (Figs. 1–3). Measurements taken were: wing length (flattened chord) using a stopped ruler correct to 1 mm; tarsus length; bill (exposed culmen length, bill depth at gonys, bill depth at nostrils) and total head length (head plus bill) using a vernier calliper (to 0.1 mm). A 100-ml blood sample was also taken (under license) for future genetic studies. The bird was released into its burrow after handling.